

Mandatory Stand-Up Talk

Sept. 24, 2020

Ready to deliver Election Mail for the nation

The Postal Service's number one priority between now and Election Day is the secure, on-time delivery of the nation's Election Mail — and we are ready to deliver for our country.

There has been a lot of media coverage — including many reports with inaccurate information — about Election Mail. To clear up any confusion, and to ensure compliance with a recent court order requiring certain practices, management has been given operational instructions. These instructions will remain in effect until further notice. Specifically:

- **Overtime.** Front-line supervisors and managers will continue to schedule work hours based on workload. Overtime is authorized and instructed to be used as necessary to fulfill our mission and expeditiously move Election Mail.
- **Hiring.** The Postal Service has not implemented a total hiring freeze. EAS hiring was suspended August 7, because of the realignment of our reporting structure. This suspension does not impact hiring for craft positions. Craft positions will continue to be filled in accordance with collective bargaining agreements.
- **Retail Hours.** The Postal Service will not reduce retail hours before the November elections. Natural disasters, civil unrest, or lack of employee availability due to the coronavirus pandemic may necessitate temporary changes, but local managers are not permitted to reduce retail hours without review and approval by both Area and Headquarters management.
- **Collection Boxes.** The Postal Service has suspended the removal of any collection boxes until after the 2020 elections. There may be temporary removal or covering of boxes due to extreme weather, national security incidents, or local events such as wildfires or civil unrest. It is critical that any collection boxes damaged — for example, by hurricane or a car accident — be reported and replaced as soon as possible.

- **Late and Extra Trips.** Late or extra trips have not been banned; they should not be restricted if they are reasonably necessary to complete timely mail delivery. Managers are authorized to use their best business judgment to meet service commitments. Focusing on the transportation schedule does not mean that mail should be left behind — it should not. Instead, processing and transportation schedules should be aligned to help reduce late deliveries and unnecessary costs.
- **Mail Processing.** No mail processing facilities will be closed or consolidated, and no letter or flat sorting machines will be removed before the November elections. We have more than sufficient capacity to process current and anticipated mail volumes with our existing machine supply. Available machines will be returned to service if Headquarters or the Regional Vice President determine that doing so is necessary to fulfill our Election Mail service commitments.
- **Election Mail.** We will continue to expedite Election Mail that is entered as Marketing Mail, as is our long-standing practice. Election Mail entered as Marketing Mail should be advanced ahead of all other Marketing Mail and processed expeditiously. To make this possible, please expand processing windows on letter and flat sorting equipment to ensure that all Election Mail received prior to the First-Class Mail Critical Entry Time is processed that same day.

Please also continue to prioritize Election Mail, including ballots entered with Green Tag 191, when loading trucks, and continue to use standardized log sheets to track Election Mail. Conduct daily “all clears” to ensure that all Election Mail is accounted for in the system and processed accordingly.

The Postal Service and our Postmaster General have repeatedly reaffirmed our commitment to the timely delivery of Election Mail. You can help us meet that commitment and prove that we are ready to deliver. Our country and our customers are counting on us.

Thank you for your attention and thank you for your service to our customers every day.

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